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Arafat thanks U.N. chief

GENEVA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat thanked U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Sunday for his efforts on behalf of his fellow Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. "I wanted to thank him very much for what he is doing for our people," the PLO Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman said after a two-hour meeting with Perez de Cuellar, who sent an envoy to the region after an upsurge of violence in May. Arafat paid an unscheduled visit to Geneva to meet Perez de Cuellar who received a preliminary report from his envoy, Jean-Claude Alame, last Wednesday. The PLO leader said he had discussed with Perez de Cuellar ways of protecting inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Israeli forces. He said Alame's report would be discussed by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Both Arafat and Perez de Cuellar, who spoke to reporters later, renewed earlier calls for a Middle East peace conference. "The PLO has always insisted on the need for a conference," Arafat said. "In his report, Alame urged Israel to address grievances of Palestinians in the occupied territories who complained their human rights were being violated. Perez de Cuellar said Wednesday Alame had conveyed Palestinian complaints to Israeli government officials."

U.N. chief pursues Sahara mediation

GENEVA, (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has cancelled plans to attend an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa to continue efforts to resolve the Western Sahara conflict. "I have had to cancel my trip to Addis Ababa because I have to settle an African problem here," he told reporters Sunday. The United Nations chief, who was due to leave for Addis Ababa Sunday, was still trying to convince Morocco to hold direct talks with the Polisario Front on the future of the disputed Western Sahara, annexed by Morocco in 1976. Diplomats have said that prospects of Moroccan and Polisario officials talking to each other under U.N. mediation looked dim. But Perez de Cuellar, who has produced a plan to end the 15-year desert war, said Thursday he was confident he could persuade Morocco to budge on the issue after receiving Moroccan and Polisario representatives separately. There has only been one meeting between Morocco and the Polisario guerrillas, fighting for independence of the Western Sahara. King Hassan received Polisario officials in Marrakech, Morocco, in January 1989. But he refused further talks despite repeated calls from the Polisario.

Libyan envoy in Syria with message

DAMASCUS (R) — Colonel Mustafa Al Kharoubi, chief of staff of Libya's armed forces, arrived in Damascus on Sunday with a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Libyan officials said. They told Reuters the message dealt with latest Arab developments but gave no further details. Kharoubi, who is a member of Libya's Revolutionary Council, was welcomed at the airport by Major-General Hekmat Shehawi chief of staff of Syria's armed forces. The Libyan envoy has visited Egypt and Jordan will deliver similar messages in Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Spain's largest nuclear plant shut down

TARRAGONA, Spain (R) — Spain's largest and newest nuclear power plant was shut down Sunday after engineers detected a leak of radioactive steam from its cooling system, a regional government spokesman said. Regional authorities decreed a state of alert at the Vandellós II plant but said the leak had not spilled outside and the heavily populated Tarragona area on Spain's Mediterranean coast was not at risk. "There is no risk of radiation," Vandellós Mayor Carlos Barcelo was quoted as saying by the Europa Press news service. "My children are out playing on the beach."

Soviets urge PLO to stop raids

SHARJAH (AP) — The Soviet Union has urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to bring commando operations against Israel to a halt, the newspaper Al Khaleej reported Sunday. Quoting an unnamed Arab diplomat, the Sharjah daily said Moscow advised the PLO in a message last week to "stop commando operations which may increase the current tension." The message asked the PLO to adopt "a rational stand."

U.S., Greece sign new bases pact

ATHENS (R) — The United States and Greece signed a new military bases agreement Sunday and Washington threw in 62 warplanes and four naval destroyers to sweeten the deal. Greece's conservative government, in power for the first time since 1981, took just three months to hammer out the pact which sharply reduces the number of U.S. military personnel and bases in Greece.

Kosovo opposition calls for strike

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (R) — Opposition leaders in rebel Kosovo province Sunday urged ethnic Albanians to strike in protest against Serbian rule, but the Yugoslav republic warned it would sack workers who heeded the call. The Democratic Forum, comprising Kosovo's main Albanian opposition groups, issued a statement calling for the province's Albanian majority to stop work from nine to 10 a.m. daily. Serbia dissolved Kosovo's parliament and purged the Albanian-language media after rebel deputies declared the province independent from Serbia. On Sunday Serbian officials said they would take severe measures to break the strike. "Anyone going on strike will be fired on the spot and their paycheck will be withheld," Dragan Nikolic, a member of the Serbian government, told reporters.

Mandela optimistic about talks soon with Pretoria

KAMPALA (R) — Nelson Mandela said Sunday he was confident the African National Congress (ANC) would make progress in talks with the white-ruled South African government next week. "We have an optimistic view, especially after the success of our first talks," the ANC vice-president told a news conference in Entebbe at the end of a four-day visit to Uganda.

Israeli policeman stabbed in Arab Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An assailant ambushed and stabbed an Israeli policeman in the back Sunday as he patrolled in the old Walled City near a church marking the legendary burial place of Jesus, police said.

The officer was in moderate condition at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital with a punctured lung after undergoing surgery to remove the knife, a hospital spokeswoman said. Police shut the city's stone-walled gates after the 1100 a.m. (0800 GMT) attack for an hour and detained dozens of Palestinians in the area for questioning. The assault came on a day designated by Palestinian underground leaders in a leaflet for "distinguished escalation" as part of the 31-month uprising.

Police Minister Roni Milo of the right-wing Likud bloc rushed to the scene from the weekly cabinet session and vowed police would use tougher measures to prevent further attacks.

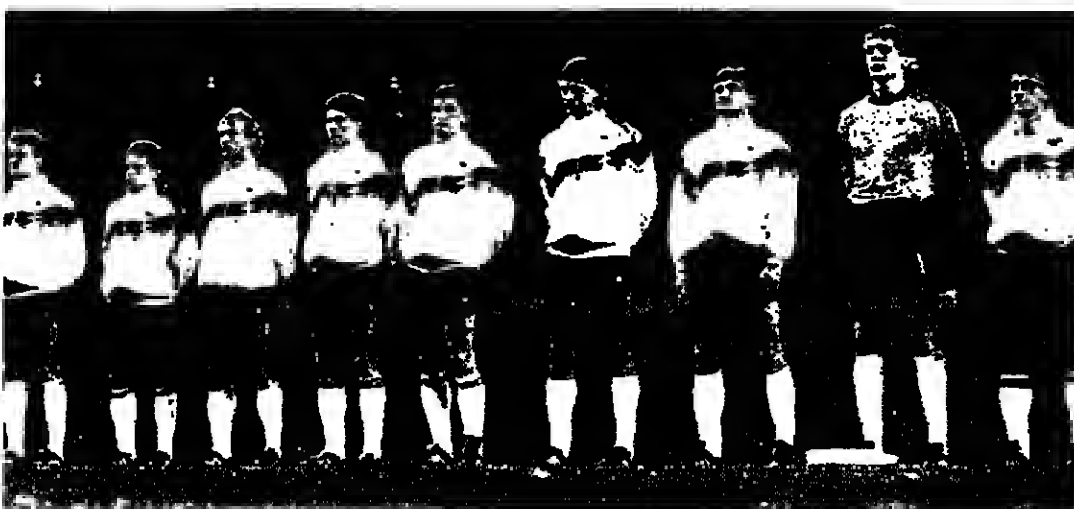
"We see this attack in a very grave light," Milo said. "There are new methods of action that will be carried out as soon as possible," he added, without elaborating.

Surrounded by a dozen heavily armed police, Milo said Jerusalem remained a relatively safe city by international standards. Arabs said the spate of recent attacks reflected continuing tension of the uprising rather than a sudden escalation.

"We are used to it," said a Palestinian cafe manager who asked not to be identified. Police and witnesses said the policeman, who routinely works in Jerusalem's Old City, was ambushed by a youth with black curly hair, wearing blue jeans and a yellow shirt outside the Holy Sepulcher Church in the Christian quarter.

The vicinity of the Holy Sepulcher has been a source of Arab-Jewish tensions in the wake of a settlement established by a group of armed Israelis in a nearby building in April.

The supreme court later ordered most settlers evicted after strong protests from the United States, but allowed about 20 to remain pending resolution of a tenancy dispute in the building.



The West German team

W. Germans win the cup

ROME (Agencies) — Andreas Brehme scored a penalty with six minutes remaining to lift West Germany to a 1-0 victory over defending champion Argentina Sunday in the World Cup final. Argentina finished the match with nine men. Substitute Pedro Monzon was sent off by Mexican referee Edgardo Codesal for a crude challenge on West German striker Joerges Klinsmann in the 65th minute.

Striker Gustavo Dezotti also was sent off for a foul on Joerges Kohler with two minutes remaining. No player had previously been sent off in a World Cup final.

West Germany dominated the match for long periods, but found it difficult to break down the rugged Argentine defence.

The penalty was awarded when defender Roberto Sensi fouled striker Rudi Voller in the penalty area.

Brehme coolly hit the penalty past goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea.

West German coach Franz Beckenbauer became the first man to captain and coach a team to victory in the World Cup final. He captained West Germany to victory in 1974.

Hostage release details 'being worked out'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Iran has decided to use its influence with kidnappers to free one of 16 Western hostages they hold, and a scenario for the release is being worked out, a source close to the fundamentalist Hizbollah said Sunday.

"The decision was taken in Tehran to release the hostage. The details on where, when and how are now under consideration in Lebanon," the source told the AP.

The source would not speculate on who would be released, or answer any other questions. "This is it for the moment. We have to wait for a communiqué (from the kidnappers)."

Sources quoted by Reuters also said Iran, paymaster of Hizbollah which is believed to be an umbrella group for hostage-takers, was making final arrangements with kidnappers.

"The Iranians have informed the kidnappers about their desire to see one of the hostages free but have not indicated the name or the final date yet," one source told Reuters.

A pro-Syrian militia source said Brian Keenan, who has dual British and Irish nationality, would go free following intensive contacts between the Irish government and Iran and Syria.

The Iranian news agency

IRNA began the speculation on Saturday with a report from Beirut that a hostage, most probably a European, might be freed soon.

Pro-Iranian sources said the release, not expected before Tuesday, would be a goodwill gesture by Tehran towards Western Europe for its help after the devastating June 21 earthquake.

"Iran showed goodwill towards the United States by helping free two of its hostages two months ago. Now it wants to extend its hands to the Europeans," one said.

After the quake, Iranian Foreign Ministry official Hussein Mussavian said Tehran would exert efforts to release a Western hostage "even if the West did not show goodwill."

Syria, with 40,000 troops deployed over two-thirds of Lebanon, usually liaises in hostage releases.

"We heard reports that it could be Brian Keenan but we haven't been informed officially about the name of the hostage or where and when he would be set free," said a Syrian major.

"Usually the captors send a statement announcing details of the release and ask us to collect him and hand him over to his government... but this hasn't happened yet."

Velayati to visit Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Cairo soon and diplomatic relations between Iran and Egypt which have been severed in 1979 will improve, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The state-owned Al Messa newspaper reported in an unattributed story that Iran has sent Egypt a message of thanks for the supplies it sent following the earthquake which killed 40,000 people last month.

"I learned that Iran has sent a message to Egypt through Geneva, thanking it for its help sent to the victims of the earthquake. Special thanks were sent to President (Hosni) Mubarak for the message of condolences which he sent to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani," Al Messa's editor-in-chief Samir Ragab wrote in a front-page article.

"And relations between Egypt and Iran will improve in the coming days and the Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Cairo in the next few days after accepting an invitation from Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid," Ragab added.

Ragab is accompanying Mubarak on his present trip to Yemen. He did not say when Egypt extended the invitation to Velayati and gave no further details.

Iran severed diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1979 to protest its peace treaty with Israel signed in March of that year.

But the two countries maintained interest sections attached to third country embassies until May 1987 when Egypt expelled two Iranian diplomats attached to the Swiss embassy in Cairo and withdrew its lone official at the French embassy in Tehran.

The expelled Iranian diplomats were suspected of maintaining contacts with Egyptian extremists opposed to Mubarak's government.

Iran's official news agency IRNA reported Sunday that Velayati will visit Kuwait Monday for the first time since the Gulf war.

Velayati will hold talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the two countries' recently improved ties, the agency said.

IRNA said Velayati will also meet the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

The first Iranian ship to dock in Kuwait since the war arrived at Sharwaik Tuesday.

Levy expects to meet Baker 'soon'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Foreign Minister David Levy expects to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker "as soon as possible" to discuss Middle East peace moves, a foreign ministry official said Sunday.

The remarks came in response to an invitation by Baker for talks conveyed Thursday to Levy by U.S. ambassador to Israel William Brown.

The Moroccan-born Levy is number two behind Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in the right-wing Likud bloc. He is Israel's first foreign minister born in an Arab country.

Baker's message followed a lengthy letter by Shamir to U.S. President George Bush a week ago, in which he suggested Israel was ready to reopen discussion about choosing Palestinian negotiators for peace talks.

Baker has sought for months to arrange Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, but his efforts had been deadlocked over Israel's insistence on excluding the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) from talks.

Baker, in Houston for next week's group of seven economic summit, said in an interview with Cable News Network Saturday he had not yet received a reply from Levy.

"I've written the foreign minister of Israel and I've suggested that we should try and reengage in this process. And I've invited him to meet me in Paris on July 18th or 19th," Baker said.

"What we're trying to do is bring Palestinians — Palestinians, not the PLO — and Israelis to the table," Baker said.

Levy's spokeswoman Aliza Goren said no date has been set for a meeting with Baker, because Levy, 52, is still convalescing from a mild heart attack he suffered last month.

Another ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said of Baker's message, "it was a very warm letter."

Baker referred to Levy as a

(Continued on page 3)

Soviets indignant over Gorbachev's tactic

MOSCOW (R) — Deft footwork by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to spare his politburo from individual judgement at a Communist Party congress appeared to have backfired Sunday. Soviet radio said many people were indignant about it.

While Gorbachev met workers and farmer delegations in the Kremlin, the radio said all Moscow was talking about how he beat off a conservative attempt to rate members of the ruling party body individually at the congress Saturday.

"How skillfully politburo members have escaped responsibility. People are talking about this on trolleys, everywhere, it is the talk of the town," a radio commentator said.

"Lenin stood for personal responsibility in everything," he added in a reference to the founder of the Soviet state.

Gorbachev Saturday put on a crushing display of authority at the congress, intervening after the body had passed a plan to vote individually on the performance of members of the politburo which he heads.

"What are we supposed to do, vote on each politburo member on a five-point scale, so-and-so getting two, the other minus

three? Comrades, come on, this is a full Soviet congress, a political event of huge importance," he snapped to loud applause.

"I want to tell you something," the Soviet leader said, wagging his finger at delegates. "If you want to split the party, if you want to bury it, then you're going about it the right way."

The 4,700 congress delegates, clearly cowed by his fighting response, then approved a counterproposal for a vote on the leadership as a whole to be taken later in the session.

It appeared the Soviet leader was trying to save the reformist members of his leadership team — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his adviser Alexander Yakovlev — from a damning assessment at the conservative-dominated congress.

Politburo members were on the spot much of the day on Saturday, fielding hostile questions from headline critics and dismissing charges that weak leadership had sapped the party's strength.

Delegates have not questioned Gorbachev's right to continue as party chief, but they seemed intent on blaming his lieutenants for the country's social and economic crisis.

Aid to Gorbachev is key issue at Houston summit

HOUSTON (AP) — Western leaders had a relaxed warm-up Sunday to their economic summit as aides sparred over how much aid to give to the Soviet Union, one of the most contentious issues. Two key members of the exclusive club were delayed by the World Cup soccer finals.

U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher attended church together. Thatcher was meeting later with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, and Bush with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Mulroney said in a television interview that the seven-nation summit, which officially begins Monday, should take a common stance on how to help Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev achieve his economic reforms.

"Houston has to provide the beginnings of an economic response," Mulroney told ABC-TV.

He said Canada for its part would provide trade credits and easier financial terms to the Soviets.

"We want to send out a signal that this (Gorbachev) leadership is valued and valuable," said Mulroney.

Baker said in the same interview show that Washington was not ready to provide any direct financial aid, but would continue to give technical economic aid such as advice on how to move towards a market economy.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said his country shares U.S. reluctance to give Moscow money.

"We don't believe they have the economic reforms in place that would justify putting huge Western dollars in their pockets," said Hurd.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who went to R' me to watch his country's team play in the finals of the World Cup, has taken the lead in pushing aid to the Soviets.

Gorbachev recently sent Bush a communique that is believed to repeat the appeal for aid he made in a letter to Thatcher.

The West German advocate aid worth \$15 billion to bolster reforms and help Moscow meet payments to foreign firms.

The Soviet Union traditionally has been punctual in meeting payments. But recent delays have started to erode confidence among foreign investors in Soviet economic performance.

Badran to visit Syria this month

AMMAN (I.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran will visit Syria later this month to co-chair the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meeting with his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zoubi.

Badran's visit to Syria will be the first since he took over as prime minister last year, and his meeting with Zoubi as co-chairman of the joint committee will be the second since January this year.

The joint committee's January

meeting here decided on several steps to be taken by the two countries in promoting cooperation in agriculture, transport, electricity, trade, industry, irrigation and tourism.

A cabinet meeting here Saturday evening formed a Jordanian delegation to go to Damascus to prepare for the higher committee meeting. The delegation, to be headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz, comprises senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Central Bank of Jordan.

Jordan, S. Arabia and Iraq discuss oil pipeline

AMMAN (R) — Officials from Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have had their first round of talks on a joint multi-million dollar oil pipeline, an official said Sunday.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources told Reuters the meeting, held in the Saudi city of Dhahran last week, focused on a plan to pump Iraqi oil to Jordan by pipeline through Saudi Arabia.

"Procedures regarding linking... the Iraqi pipeline that runs through Saudi Arabia with the (Saudi-Jordan) Tapline to carry Iraqi crude oil to Jordan were discussed," he said.

He said the meeting had asked Saudi Arabia's national oil company Saudi Aramco to prepare a technical report for a preliminary evaluation of the project.

The report would be assessed during the second round of talks in early August when officials would agree on a work timetable.

The spokesman gave no further details but government sources

have said the project would cost around \$5 million and would save Jordan \$40 million a year it spends on importing Iraqi oil by road tanker.

They said the project would link Iraq's pipeline to the Saudi port of Yanbu with the Saudi Tapline, which feeds Jordan's only oil refinery at Zarqa.

Jordan gets 80 per cent of its oil from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia via Tapline.

Amman imports 18 million barrels of Iraqi oil annually, most as barter trade or as repayment of Iraq's estimated \$400 million debt to Jordan.

Jordan uses 60,000 barrels of oil daily but produces only 400 to 500 barrels a day. Several foreign companies are exploring for oil.

In 1989, Jordan paid around \$600 million on oil imports.

The pipeline link was first proposed in the mid-1980s but Iraq shelved the project because of its war with Iran.

House needs royal decree to discuss Audit Bureau chief

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution held a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and discussed the issue of referring Audit Bureau Chief Hashem Al Dabbas to pension.

In light of its interpretation of paragraphs one and two of Article 82 of the Constitution, the council ruled that the Lower House of Parliament cannot discuss this issue in its current ex-

traordinary session because it was not included in the session's agenda, as contained in the Royal Decree calling the House for session. However, following the practices which have been applied since 1948, such items can be added to the House's agenda by virtue of a royal decree.

Accordingly, the council decided that the issue of referring the Audit Bureau chief to pension can be added to the agenda of the House's extraordinary session by a royal decree.

Reformers in control in Albania, but refugees wait

BONN (R) — The sacking of Albania's interior minister and top party members, after a week in which thousands of refugees stormed embassies demanding to leave the Stalinist state, shows reformers are in control, political analysts said Sunday.

"It is quite clear the liberals are marching forward," one analyst said in Bonn.

Up to 6,000 refugees were holed up in embassies Sunday and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he had sent an envoy to Albania to try to solve the crisis.

Communist Party leaders, rocked by the unprecedented public dissent, ousted several hardliners in a party and government reshuffle at the end of a two-day crisis meeting Saturday.

The biggest casualty reported by the official news agency ATA was Interior Minister Simon Stefani, whose security police spent all week trying in vain to stop disillusioned Albanians flocking to the embassies to escape from 45 years of Stalinism.

"Stefani was one of the hardest. But you need a hard man in that job," said the analyst.

He is replaced by Hekuran Isai, a close ally of President Ramiz Alia. Isai was also interior minister under the late hardline leader Enver Hoxha.

Alia has been pushing for change but says any reforms should be gradual. He said Friday economic reform would take

priority and called for "confined and controlled private activity," in some economic sectors.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in a radio interview 3,000 asylum seekers were in Bonn's embassy on Sunday. As many again are holed up in the Italian, French, Greek, Czechoslovak, Polish, Hungarian and Turkish missions.

About 600 Albanian troops and police sealed off the foreign embassies district in Tirana Sunday. French Foreign Ministry officials said, quoting reports from their embassy.

The officials said the controls and heavy security presence was in contrast with the last few days when Albanian police and soldiers allowed many would-be refugees into the area.

Several diplomats speaking from Tirana said Saturday that Albanian authorities had pledged to let embassy personnel accompany the asylum seekers as they picked up travel documents and left the country, to dispel concerns they would not be allowed, to leave.

"A solution has been found," Hungarian Ambassador Mihaly Kornidesz said Saturday. "Passports will be issued, and embassy personnel will be allowed to oversee... safe passage out of the country."

"But only those accepted as refugees by foreign countries would be allowed to leave, the diplomats said."

Israelis bomb Hizbollah posts

NABATTIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes attacked posts of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in South Lebanon Sunday, their third air strike in three days, security sources said.

They said six jets slammed air-to-surface missiles into Hizbollah positions in the villages of Jarjouch and 'Ain Bouswar, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT).

Initial casualty reports said at least four people were wounded in the five-minute raid. A two-storey house in 'Ain Bouswar took a direct hit and was completely destroyed.

"Smoke is billowing over the bombed area and Hizbollah ambulances are rushing to evacuate casualties," a witness said. "Israeli planes are still flying over the villages."

A chain of loud explosions echoed across the area after the lightning raid.

There was no immediate word on casualties. Jarjouch and 'Ain Bouswar are 3.5 to 5 kilometres north of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah has long been engaged in guerrilla attacks against Israeli troops and allied Lebanese militiamen in the enclave.

The "security zone's" population is predominantly Shi'ite. Israel carved out the buffer in 1985, ostensibly to guard against cross-border raids.

Israeli jets Friday attacked bases of Palestinian guerrillas in north and east Lebanon. Eight fighters were wounded.

The targets were positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command were wounded.

Palestinian group, Sidon militia clash

SIDON (AP) — Palestinian fundamentalists fought an eight-hour street battle with Lebanese militiamen of the Nasserite Popular Organisation. Police said Sunday two people were killed and 21 wounded.

They said the clashes between the Ansarullah, a newly founded Palestinian faction, and the Nasserites were halted by informal ceasefire at 1 a.m. (2230 GMT) Sunday.

Ansarullah (God's partisans) comprises fighters from the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh, on the outskirts of this southern port city. Ansarullah is allied with Hamas, the Palestinian resistance group based in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The Nasserites, led by Mustafa Saad, an engineer, are dominant militia in Sidon. They maintain close ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose efforts to find peace with Israel have been openly criticised by Hamas.

A police spokesman in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, said automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars were deployed in the overnight battle.

It started when a Nasserite checkpoint near 'Ain Al Hilweh's northern entrance prevented five armed members of Ansarullah from entering the city, the police said.

"The Ansarullahis opened fire and the militiamen responded in kind and each side sent reinforcements to the areas," said the spokesman.

The attack last week was the first into Lebanon since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir formed his right-wing government last month. Arab governments have called it a "war government."

Sunday's was Israel's 14th air attack this year. By police count, 16 people were killed and 39 wounded in the 13 previous strikes since Jan. 19.

A Hizbollah statement issued in Beirut later in the day said two party fighters were killed and many wounded.

It said that Israel's artillery batteries based in its self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon pounded the scene of the air attack after the planes had gone to block rescue operations and prevent the movement of ambulances.

"General mobilisation has been ordered by the party in the area and all fighters were put on high alert to retaliate for the monstrous Israeli aggression," the statement said. It did not elaborate.

The strike was mounted a day after reports that one of the European hostages in Lebanon, believed held by Hizbollah members, would soon be freed.

Israel raided Hizbollah bases days before an American hostage was released in April.

Soon after Sunday's attack, Hizbollah and its rival Shi'ite militia Amal fought with heavy machineguns, rockets and mortars in the area.

Hizbollah accused the Syrian-backed Amal, with which it has been feuding for three years, of cooperating with Israel to try to wipe out its fighters.

He said both sides shelled each other's positions with mortar fire. Scores of rounds crashed in 'Ain Al Hilweh and in the city.

The two killed were both civilian men. One was a Palestinian from the camp and the other a Lebanese from Sidon. The wounded included 10 Palestinian combatants, nine Nasserites and two civilians.

Sidon-based reporters said four houses were set ablaze in the area of the clashes. About 50 apartments were destroyed.

Burned out cars and glass shards from broken windows littered the streets of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon and the country's third-largest city.

The battle erupted after a verbal assault by the PLO against Hamas, accusing it of playing into Israel's hands.

The weekly Palestine Al Thawra magazine, mouthpiece of the PLO, launched the attack against Hamas in a commentary in its latest edition.

The article accused Hamas of trying to "break away from the rules and regulations of the (Palestinian) house."

Hamas has been challenging the pro-PLO underground command of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The commentary said such attempts by Hamas "will only serve the intrigues of the Zionist enemies and their American masters to strike at the Arab Nation as a whole and not just Palestine."

Iraq to legalise political parties

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has drawn up a draft of a more liberal constitution that would allow political parties other than the dominant Baath to emerge and give greater freedom to the press, officials said Sunday.

They said they expected the revival of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Istiqlal (Independence) Party, one-time allies of the ruling Baath Party but banned 30 years ago.

The new constitution was prepared by the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) led by President Saddam Hussein and by Baath Party leaders.

Apart from the Baath, the only legal parties are two small Kurdish parties — pro-government faction of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) and the Revolutionary Kurdish Party (RKP).

Baghdad offered an amnesty earlier this year to members of rebel groups seeking more autonomy for the country's three million Kurds, including the mainstream DPK and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. But leaders of the two parties did not take up the offer.

Another banned group is the Communist Party which joined the Baath Party, the NDP and Istiqlal in setting up a republic in 1958 but turned against the Baath in the early 1970s.

The draft constitution will be discussed by ministers and parliament and be published in the press before ratification by the RCC, the officials said.

Parliament Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh told reporters earlier this year that the new constitution will give greater press freedom.

Iraq has three state-run Arabic newspapers and an English daily along with one private daily representing the Kurdish minority.

U.S. seen dropping its rejection of role for Najibullah

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United States now is willing to consider a role for President Najibullah of Afghanistan in a settlement to end his nation's bloody conflict, according to diplomatic sources.

Americans have been frustrated by bickering that has spurred the resistance of its political and military cohesion, and diplomatic formulas recently drafted by Washington could provide the superpowers with a face-saving exit from the decade-old conflict between rebels and the Soviet-backed government, the sources said.

The options include what a year ago would have been out of the question for the United States — allowing Najibullah to remain in office while transferring control of the armed forces, the intelligence agencies and the state-run media to a broad-based interim council, the sources said.

The options also include a cutoff of weapons supplies by the United States to the rebels and by the Soviet Union to the government in Kabul and internationally supervised elections.

Although the mechanics have yet to be worked out, the emergence of independent Afghan groups could provide the springboard for the interim council.

The council most likely would include Najibullah's ruling Hezb-e-Watan, (Party of the Homeland), which until last month had been known for a quarter century as the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The major obstacle to a settlement has been Najibullah, the 44-year-old ruler and former head of the feared Afghan secret police who has been trying to distance himself and his party from the communist past.

Until recently, Washington had insisted that Najibullah and "less than a planetload" of people must leave. But Najibullah has proven a formidable politician and refused to step aside. Moscow has said it cannot remove him.

"The Soviets only have to change one person's mind and changes will start to happen,"

one Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, referring to Najibullah.

"He can stay and sign the checks. He can call himself by whatever title he wishes. He can run in an election and if he wins he can return to power," said the diplomat.

"He just can't have the advantages of incumbency — control of the military, the police and the media — before or during an election, because he would probably cheat."

Leaders with the rebels' beleaguered government-in-exile acknowledged they have been told of Washington's proposals. If Najibullah must be included in a settlement, they said, he should be part of the council.

"If Najib stays as president — if only in title — then symbolically and psychologically he has won," said one guerrilla leader, also speaking on condition of anonymity. "But if the Soviets and the Americans come to any agreement, then it's settled."

When the last Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan in February 1989 after nine years of direct involvement, Western leaders confidently predicted that the government they left behind would quickly fall and the resistance would take command. Their predictions proved wrong.

Neither side made any significant military victory. Government troops control the cities and the guerrillas hold the countryside.

With dramatic changes sweeping Eastern Europe and different political agendas, Washington and Moscow are eager to find a solution to a war that has cost them billions of dollars, claimed more than 1.5 million lives and left Afghanistan in ruins, economically and physically.

"We believe we have come a long way since last fall when it was obvious there would be no quick military solution by either side," said a senior U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We believe the Soviets are seriously interested in reaching a



Najibullah

political solution. We certainly are. So there are a lot of forces moving and we have made a lot of progress."

But any superpower settlement will be no guarantee of peace in Afghanistan. A new government most likely will be forced to fight fundamentalists who have threatened to derail any plan they don't like.

"This will not be a universally accepted plan. The object now is to go for the majority and to marginalise those who might want to continue fighting," the diplomat said.

'No cut in U.S. aid'

The United States' envoy to Afghan guerrillas has said Washington will not cut its aid to the rebels while Najibullah remains in power, Reuters reported.

In an interview with the Pakistani daily the Frontier Post published Sunday, Peter Tomsen said U.S. assistance, including arms supplies, to the Afghan Mujahideen will continue "at the same level as in previous years."

Tomsen, who has the rank of ambassador, said "the building blocks are going in to their places" for a settlement, but that many problems remained.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are due to hold talks on Afghanistan in Paris beginning July 17.

Tomsen said Washington and Moscow agreed that political power in Afghanistan should be transferred to an "interim entity" which would establish a process for the people of Afghanistan to choose their own leaders.

'Mengistu paid secret visit to Israel'

ROME (AP) — Ethiopian leader Mariam Hailu Mengistu secretly travelled to Italy and Israel in recent weeks for talks with government officials, a Rome newspaper reported Saturday.

The daily, Il Messaggero, said the Ethiopian leader also met with U.S. officials during the trip to Tel Aviv.

The newspaper speculated that Mengistu was trying to improve his ties with the West because of the Soviet Union's difficulties in aiding its Third World allies.

Mengistu travelled to Rome June 17 and spoke for three hours with Premier Giulio Andreotti at Ciampino airport, the newspaper said. He then went to an unknown location in the Via Veneto area, the newspaper said. The U.S. embassy is located in that



Mariam Hailu Mengistu

neighbourhood. Mengistu travelled to Tel Aviv July 3 and met secretly in the middle of the night with Israeli and U.S. officials, the newspaper said.

The results of the talks were not known, according to Il Messaggero. Andreotti's office said Saturday it had no comment on the report.

The Marxist government of Ethiopia, a one-time Italian colony, has been battling Eritrean and Tigrean rebels.

American Jewish leader warns Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — An American Jewish leader has warned Israel that its policy of no "territorial compromise" would alienate world Jewry and the American government.

Henry Siegman, director of the American Jewish Congress, told Israel Television:

"If the policy of this government is going to be, as it seems to be, that there will be no territorial compromise and they are going to hold on to all of the territories permanently that situation does not represent a peace policy."

"That will lead eventually not just to the alienation of the U.S. administration but I think of world Jewry."

The new right-wing government claims Israel has a "historic

right" to the occupied territories. "People understand that this is a government that has a coherent consistent policy, under no circumstances any territorial compromise," Siegman said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to open the first-ever peace talks with Palestinians proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has brought U.S.-Israel relations to their lowest point in eight years.

The 30-month-old Palestinian uprising has also damaged Israel's standing with Americans.

Siegman said Speaker Tom Foley of the U.S. House of Representatives recently warned Jewish leaders that "the relationship is in the process of being undone."

Voters get choice for first time in Chad

NDJAMENA (AP) — This war-torn nation Sunday held its first contested election since independence in 1960, offering voters a choice of 436 pro-government candidates seeking 123 seats in a new national assembly.

Opposition parties remain banned in Chad, and virtually all the candidates belonged to the ruling National Union for Independence and the Revolution.

Yet the campaign was lively and hard-fought, with candidates touring city streets in loud-speaker-equipped vehicles and wooing voters with offers of low-price beer or free sugar.

The 4,000 polling stations spread across the vast, landlocked nation opened at 6 a.m. (0500 GMT) and were scheduled to close at midnight (2300 GMT). Final results were not expected until later in the week.

The elections are the product of constitutional reforms approved by 99 per cent of the electorate on Dec. 10 in a referendum that also gave President Hissene Habre another seven-year term.

Habre voted about 9 a.m. in his Ndjamena neighbourhood, then told journalists that Chad was entering "a phase of democratisation."

"I hope these processes will be seen through to completion," he said.

Of the 123 seats, five are reserved for women and will be allocated on a delayed basis if less

than five women win seats outright. Assembly members will serve five-year terms.

Few senior members of the government or ruling party are seeking seats in the assembly, which will replace the recently dissolved national consultative council.

The council served in the place of a national legislature since 1982, but its members were appointed by Habre and its powers were limited. Some council members have questioned whether the new assembly will have any greater authority.

The three-week election campaign lapsed without any reports of serious political violence, although the state-controlled press scolded some candidates for wooing support with gifts or emphasising clan allegiances rather than issues.

Chad, more than twice the size of France, has a population of about 5.5 million. It is one of the world's poorest countries, with an annual per capita income of about \$200, and has been engaged in civil war almost continuously since independence from France in 1960.

Habre's government currently is locked in a struggle with Libyan-backed rebels who stage raids on border outposts from neighbouring Sudan.

The only previous legislative elections in Chad were held in 1962, but the ruling party put up only one candidate for each seat.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Somalia: Stadium deaths were accident

NAIROBI (R) — Deaths at a football stadium in the Somali capital Mogadishu, when bodyguards of President Mohammad Siad Barre opened fire to quell a disturbance, were a chance accident, a Somali government minister said. Witnesses said dozens of people were killed when the presidential guards fired into the crowd Friday. Labour, Sports and Social Affairs Minister Abdi Warsameh Isaq said Saturday: "Accidents and incidents happen by chance in all stadiums of the world, as did that of yesterday, the cause of which the ministry had already explained." A statement from the Medina police hospital in Mogadishu said seven people were killed and 18 injured in the incident, while a government statement on Mogadishu Radio said three people died after a disturbance caused by overcrowding in the stadium. The radio said security forces fired into the air. Diplomats in Mogadishu, contacted by telephone from Nairobi, said spectators had booed the president after he made a short speech launching a local football tournament. The bodyguards opened fire, apparently believing there was a threat to Siad Barre.

Ben Bella supporters stage hunger strike

ALGIERS (R) — Five sympathisers of former President Ahmad Ben Bella have been on hunger strike for a week in Algiers harbour in protest against a ban on their newspaper. The newspaper, Tribune d'Octobre, is printed in France as the mouthpiece of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), a political party led by Ben Bella who lives in exile. The hunger strikers are protesting against the seizure of the paper on arrival in Algeria, an MDA spokesman said Saturday. He said the latest issue was seized in Algiers harbour last week, along with other documents being carried in by an MDA activist. Ben Bella has lived in Switzerland since he was released from custody by President Chadli Benjedid in 1980. His supporters have been campaigning in recent weeks in preparation for his return at a country which is abandoning one-party rule.

Explosives stolen from Algerian depots

ALGIERS (R) — Armed men stole 350 kilograms of explosives from a quarry in the western Algerian town of Tlemcen, the official news agency APS reported. It was the second such incident in a week. On Friday the local press reported 450 kilograms of explosives stolen from a dam site near Jijel in eastern Algeria. APS said between 10 and 15 armed men raided the quarry in Tlemcen early Wednesday. A guard was wounded and another is missing.

Powell arrives in Morocco

RABAT (R) — General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Morocco Sunday at the start of an orientation tour of North Africa and the Middle East, a diplomatic source said. The source said he had been invited by King Hassan to attend ceremonies marking the monarch's 61st birthday due to be celebrated in Rabat Monday. General Powell plans to leave late Monday to continue his tour to Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel, the source said.

Libya ready for normalised ties with U.S.

ABU DHABI (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has signalled to the United States his readiness to normalise relations, according to a report Sunday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Bayan. The paper said the signal was communicated, by Qadhafi to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last Friday. Al Bayan gave no source. "The message expressed Libya's readiness to start a dialogue (with Washington) for settling some points of differences in order to normalise relations between Libya and the United States," the paper said. Qadhafi's message came as a positive response to mediation efforts by Mubarak to ease the tension between the United States and Libya, the paper said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:55 Children programmes
16:00 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:40 Arabic series
16:50 Programme review
17:00 Local programmes
17:10 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Documentary
18:20 News in French
18:30 Weekly Sport magazine
18:40 News in Hebrew
18:50 Varieties
19:00 Perfect Strangers
19:10 Murder She Wrote
19:20 News in English
19:30 Tales from Hollywood Hills

PRAYER TIMES

05:58 Fajr
07:32 Sunrise
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:49 Maghrib
21:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terremonta Church Tel. 622360
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be light and variable becoming at times northwesterly moderate. In Aquaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 21 / 34
Aquaba 26 / 41
Dawlat 22 / 39
Jordan Valley 23 / 41

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Al Natour 635934
Dr. Nabil Al Maridi 615338
Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani 898532
Dr. Tayseer Al Sa'di 776306
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778236
Al Azema pharmacy 637055
Nairobah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646945
Smeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Issa Al Saleh (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy 983238

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubab Al Hijawi (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691225
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 834302
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 608980
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 576381
Rij Flight Information 04-55, 30
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-5324

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Musaid Hospital 661271/37
The Islamic, Abdali 664164/6
Al-Ahli, Abdali 77101/3
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marja 89511/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224020
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Beerna Hospital (02)753535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)52004, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:20 Dhahran (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Kuwait (RJ)
16:30 Sanaa, Jeddah (

Jerash Festival of Culture & Arts July 11 - July 27, 1990

DAY AND DATE	TIME	THE SOUTH THEATRE	PRICE/ID	TIME	THE FORUM	TIME	ARTEMIS STEPS	PRICE/ID
WEDNESDAY 11/7/1990	8:30 - 11:00	Nabeel Sha'el	6,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Jordan National Troupe	7:30 - 9:00	Children Play/Ministry of Culture	1,000
THURSDAY 12/7/1990	8:30 - 11:00	Nabeel Sha'el	8,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/Pakistan	7:30 - 8:00	Children Play/Ministry of Culture	1,000
FRIDAY 13/7/1990	8:30 - 10:30	Mevevi Soma Group/Turkey	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/Pakistan	7:30 - 8:00	Children Play/Ministry of Culture	1,000
SATURDAY 14/7/1990	8:30 - 10:30	Mevevi Soma Group/Turkey	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/Pakistan	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
SUNDAY 15/7/1990	7:30 - 9:00	Mevevi Soma Group/Turkey	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/Pakistan	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
MONDAY 16/7/1990	7:30 - 9:00	Al-Yarmouk group for Arabic music	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore-Yugoslavia	7:00 - 8:00	Poets and Poetry	—
TUESDAY 17/7/1990	8:30 - 10:30	Omeih / Syria	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore-Yugoslavia	7:00 - 8:00	Poets and Poetry	—
WEDNESDAY 18/7/1990	8:30 - 10:30	Omeih / Syria	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore-Yugoslavia	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
THURSDAY 19/7/1990	8:30 - 11:00	Amr Diab	6,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore-Yugoslavia	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
FRIDAY 20/7/1990	8:30 - 11:00	Amr Diab	6,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Yemen Folklore Troupe	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
SATURDAY 21/7/1990	7:30 - 9:00	Jordan National Folklore Troupe	1,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Yemen Folklore Troupe	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
SUNDAY 22/7/1990	9:30 - 11:00	Al-Fuhais Singing Troupe	2,500	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Yemen Folklore Troupe	9:30 - 11:00	Quartet/France	3,000
MONDAY 23/7/1990	8:30 - 10:30	Al Fajr Alkhatib/Play University of Science & Technology	2,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Yemen Folklore Troupe	7:00 - 9:00	Poets and Poetry	—
TUESDAY 24/7/1990	7:30 - 9:00	Radio Jordan Orchestra	1,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/India	7:30 - 9:00	Cinderella/Haya Arts Centre	1,000
WEDNESDAY 25/7/1990	8:30 - 10:00	Al-Fuhais Singing Troupe	2,500	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/India	7:30 - 9:00	Cinderella/Haya Arts Centre	1,000
THURSDAY 26/7/1990	8:30 - 11:00	Cairo 80/Play "Egypt"	5,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Folklore/India	7:30 - 9:00	Cinderella/Haya Arts Centre	1,000
FRIDAY 27/7/1990	8:30 - 11:00	Cairo 80/Play "Egypt"	5,000	6:00 - 7:00 7:00 - 8:00 8:30 - 9:30	Jordan Armed Forces Band Local Folk Troupe Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe	8:30 - 10:00	The Warsaw Accordion Quartet	3,000

Greater Amman development reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — A comprehensive plan for developing the Greater Amman region from now until the year 2005 was reviewed at a meeting held Sunday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Present at the meeting was Amman Mayor Ali Subehmat and members of a higher steering committee entrusted with carrying out the project.

Addressing the meeting, Subehmat presented a general outline of the plan and studies conducted in this respect. A representative of Dar Al Handasa, a local consultancy firm, gave details of the plan which is to be implemented by his firm in cooperation with Amman Municipality's team of engineers.

The presentations were followed by a detailed discussion and agreement was reached on holding another committee meeting in the coming week to pursue debate of the ambitious plan.

Directors of municipality's different departments attended the meeting.



Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan (right) Jordan Sir Richard Francis on educational plans Sunday briefs British Council representative in (Petra photo)

Jordan, Britain discuss cooperation in education

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's educational plans were reviewed here Sunday by Education Minister Mohammad Hamdan at separate meetings with the British Council representative in Amman and a delegation representing Georgetown University in the United States.

British Council representative in Jordan Sir Richard Francis was briefed on the ministry's projects in education and discussed with Hamdan means of promoting bilateral cooperation.

Hamdan spoke in detail about the country's educational plan and discussed prospects for organising training courses for teachers, scholarships in Great Britain and visits by educational specialists to Jordan. He presented Sir Richard Francis with the Ministry of Education's shield in expression of recognition of the British Council's continued assistance to Jordan in educational matters.

The Georgetown University team was briefed by the minister about the educational development process in Jordan and government plans in cooperation with community colleges and universities to find proper solutions for the huge number of unemployed graduates.

Hamdan said that the government is linking society's needs to education, especially to vocational training, in a bid to solve the unemployment issue.

Senior Ministry of Education officials were present at the meetings.

Gift clinic to provide services free of charge

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A free-of-charge clinic was opened at the Amman National Park Sunday to provide medical services to the vacationers and visitors two days a week in the initial stage.

The park, some seven kilometres south west of Amman, off the Queen Alia International Airport highway, is crowded by visitors and vacationers in the summer when the country receives huge numbers of people from the Gulf region.

The clinic is a joint project by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and the Italian Red Cross Society. It has been designed to offer services on Sundays and Fridays, weekly as a first step, according to JNRCS President Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura.

Dr. Abu Qoura told the Jordan Times that the prefabricated four room clinic, which cost more than JD 50,000 at current prices, was a gift from the Italian Red Cross Society.

The head of the Italian Red Cross Society, women branch, Maria Pia Fanfani presented the gift to the JNRCS which supplied medical equipment, medicines, a pharmacy as well as an ambulance to cater for the medical needs of vacationers at the national park, Dr. Abu Qoura said.

He said that the clinic, which will also be opened for the public service on official holidays, is manned by a physician, nurses and other attendants.

"The medical services could be expanded and facilities increased should the need arise in the future," Dr. Abu Qoura said.

Dr. Abu Qoura and the Italian charge d'affaires in Jordan attended the inauguration ceremony along with a group of local officials and JNRCS staff.

End to midday meal does not mean cut in service — UNRWA

By P.V. Vijayakandam
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Moves by a United Nations agency to terminate its midday meal operations in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan do not imply any reduction of services nor cutdown in the volume of food distribution, according to Jordanian and UNRWA officials.

The decision to close down the supplementary feeding services of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees as of Jan. 1, 1991 was prompted by the finding of a joint UNRWA-World Health Organisation (WHO) survey that the "appropriate type" of food was not being offered, according to a spokesman for the UNRWA field office in Amman. From Jan. 1, 1991, UNRWA will change part of its mode of operation and will organise monthly rations of food to the same needy children and families, he told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, said he had been informed by UNRWA that "they will no longer be providing cooked meals but will instead supply food in dry form to the same beneficiaries."

"This change, according to UNRWA, is aimed at reducing waste and increasing the quality of the food offered," said Qatanani, the key Jordanian official involved in coordinating with UNRWA.

The "phasing out" of the programme started earlier this year, and will be complete by the end of the year. According to UNRWA figures, about 9,000 children used to benefit from the service through the agency's 17 centres in Jordan at the beginning of the year and 7,200 children — who regularly benefited from the programme in the last quarter of 1989 — will be beneficiaries under the new plan. There was no immediate explanation for the disparity in figures.

According to the U.N. agency, children in the camps were given sandwiches for five days a week, and a "hot meal" once a week, under the midday feeding programme.

Only this part of UNRWA's "nutrition and supplementary programme" will be affected, and supply of milk to expecting mothers and children under three will continue in addition to ration distribution to "special hardship" cases and tuberculosis patients. An emergency feeding programme introduced by the agency in the occupied territories in the wake of the Palestinian uprising there will remain unaffected.

UNRWA headquarters in Vienna, Austria, have explained that the switch is aimed at ensuring a "greater calorie and protein content than the midday meals" and reduction of "wasted food."

"No child who was regularly attending the supplementary feeding centres for the midday meal will be one calorie or one gramme of protein worse off for this change," UNRWA Health Director Robert Cook was quoted as saying.

The UNRWA decision, ratified by the decision-making body of the agency in Vienna last month, is also applicable to Syria.

UNRWA figures indicate that a total of \$14 million — mostly in the form of cash and in-kind assistance from the European Community (EC) — is being spent on the agency's "nutritional and supplementary feeding" programmes administered through 92 centres in its area of operations — the occupied territories, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The midday meal service accounts for \$5.6 million of the total and the agency expects an undetermined amount of savings from the switch.

The savings will be channelled to upgrading UNRWA's health and education as well as relief services, according to agency officials in Amman and Vienna. Envisaged plans for the appropriation of the saving include improving maternal and child health services, setting up new health centres, upgrading diagnosis and treatment facilities and controlling life-threatening diseases as well as offering intensive training for its staff.

Over and above everything, the agency will give more attention to addressing the chronic problem of diabetes among the refugee population, according to Health Director Cook, who says that one per cent of all Palestinian refugees are diabetic. "It is the agency's ambition to have the best diabetes control programme in the Middle East."

Jordanian death toll revised to four in Mecca stampede

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sunday released fresh information about the numbers of dead or missing among those who performed this year's annual pilgrimage to Mecca, casting yet a gloomier picture than first reported about the pilgrims last week.

Four and not two pilgrims from Jordan were among those killed in the stampede in a pedestrian tunnel near Mecca, said Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faghir in a statement released by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra quoted the minister as saying that Kamal Ahmad from Mafrag, Mousa Fayyad Zoubi from Salt, Halaleh Halim from Mafrag and Salimeh Freih from Mafrag were among those who choked to death in the tunnel in which at least 1,426 pilgrims were reported to have lost their lives.

The minister said in a telephone conversation from Mecca that the following pilgrims died of natural causes and diseases during the pilgrimage:

Hosni Nassef from occupied Palestine, Ahmad Hnssein, Mahmood Falah from Amman, Abdul Hamed Abu Hilal from Gaza, Abdul Hamid Jumaa from the ministry's official mission, Abdul Rahman Shihadeh from

Amman, Amineh Yousef Gbanaem from Beit Mahseer (Palestine), Nasrah Mohammad from Deir Al Balah (Palestine), Kamal Abu Kurik from Gaza, Ibrahim Abdullah Al Aasi from (Palestine), Hassan Ali Watad from (Palestine), Ahmad Abdul Hadi from Salt, Fatimah Abu Eid, Sami Abdallah, Badawi Raji Abdul Majid from Jordan.

According to the minister, 46 pilgrims who travelled by air are not accounted for. Among these, 18 hold Palestinian travel documents and live in the Gaza Strip and could be staying with relatives in Saudi Arabia.

The minister reported two pilgrims missing and two others still being treated in Saudi hospitals. Earlier, the Ministry of Awqaf said that only two Jordanian pilgrims died in the stampede and four others were injured.

An eye witness who performed the pilgrimage said in an article published by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday that the presence of a great number of vehicles inside the tunnel and on the overhead bridge caused the confusion inside the tunnel.

Ziyad Abu Mahfouz, who is also a parliament member, said that large crowds gathered in the tunnel trying to find their way among the vehicles.

Households without TV sets to be exempted from paying fee

AMMAN (Petra) — Citizens who do not have television sets can apply to the Ministry of Finance for exemption from television fees which are currently charged on every electricity bill, according to a decision by the Cabinet.

A statement following an ordinary session said that household owners, who can prove through documents accredited and supported by the mukhtar (headman of a village or city quarter) that they do not own a television set are exempted from paying the JD 1 monthly fee

which is normally added to the electricity bill.

The minister of finance has the authority to entrust a special team to verify the claim, the statement added. It said that places of worship and diplomatic missions will continue to enjoy the exemption.

The Cabinet endorsed an amendment to the University of Jordan staff regulations. The amendment provides for staff members who obtain a sabbatical year to enjoy certain privileges and new facilities, enabling them to complete their research plans.

Prices of milk, derivatives go up

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub Sunday passed a decision increasing the prices of fresh cow milk and its derivatives as of Monday (today).

According to the decision, a kilogramme of fresh cow milk will be sold at 210 fils from the farm. The ministry also increased the prices of pasteurised milk as of July 10. According to the decision, pasteurised milk in 1,000-gramme packs will be sold for 375

fils, while the 500-gramme packs will be sold for 200 fils and the 250-gramme packs will be sold for 105 fils. The ministry took another decision increasing the prices of yoghurt and labaneh made from a mixture of powdered and fresh milk and those made from fresh milk only.

The new prices included an increase of 80 fils per kilo of labaneh made from fresh milk.

Levy hopes to meet Baker

(Continued from page 1)

"problem-solver," and said he had read a lot about him and is looking for a meeting with him soon, the official added. "We hope the meeting will take place as soon as possible."

"I believe this invitation indicates a certain intent by the (U.S.) administration to renew the process of contacts which may lead eventually to negotiations, something that all of us are very much interested in," Health Minister Ehad Olmert, who is close to Shamir, said of Baker's letter on Israel Radio.

But the Yehot Ahronot daily reported Sunday that Bush sent

an "impatient" message to Shamir last week, asking why Israel objected to including Palestinians expelled by Israel and residents of Arab Jerusalem as delegates in peace talks.

The United States has promoted these ideas as a compromise around Israel's boycott of the PLO.

The Yehot report comes after Bush told reporters in London Friday he had sought clarifications from Shamir about his letter and added: "I'd like to think that Israel would now move forward again."

Shamir's aides refused comment on the report.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Salim: the French city of art" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Escalier C" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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Festive politics

ON THE first of the Eid Al Adha, the Muslim Brotherhood issued a political statement in which it called for a boycott of U.S.-made goods, urged the government to begin military training for all Jordanians and to teach them how to face nuclear and chemical weapons, and stressed the need to renounce regional divisionism and sectarianism. The statement also urged the government to cancel the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, attacking it as frivolous "at a time when Jordan should be preparing for jihad against Israel."

Yesterday, Reuter news agency moved a story quoting the Brotherhood's demands, except of course that which stressed the need to combat regionalism and sectarianism.

What Reuters does, as an international news agency, is its own business. This is neither the time nor the space to discuss its (or, for that matter, any other news agency's) way of reporting a developing country's news. What the Brotherhood said in its statement, however, is something that Jordanians should be interested in and concerned about and since the Brotherhood is a major force in the country and what it has to say touches upon our lives directly.

Given Washington's strong bias towards Israel, the Brotherhood's call for boycotting U.S. goods is understandable. So is the need for our people to be prepared against all Israeli threats, designs and possible aggression. What is not logical or right, though, is the connection that the Brotherhood struck between these political demands and the call to cancel the Jerash Festival.

We wonder what damage the call by a powerful political group in Jordan to cancel a festival of culture and arts has inflicted on our image abroad — especially that the call made news which is now available to millions around the world. But leaving aside this issue for now, the fundamental question remains whether the Brotherhood's argument about cancelling the festival holds water at all.

The group's contention that while Jordan "is importing troops of dancers... Israel is getting troops of migrants and warriors" is a rhetoric that will certainly not convince many. Jordan is not "importing" dancers. The country is inviting Arab poets, theatrical companies and performers to entertain its people who are generally deprived from solid cultural activity all year round. The Brotherhood's call will only strengthen the hands of our enemies, such as Yitzhak Shamir and company, who insist on portraying the Arabs as backward, blood-thirsty, war-mongers and nothing else.

Entertainment, per se, should not be considered a sin. Secularists and Islamists alike agree that Arab culture at the moment of Arab history is poor, to say the least. This has been the result of years of political suppression of the arts. Only mediocre poor-quality art "flourished" in decades of suppression. But this should not discourage us; genuine art does not spring out of a vacuum — it needs leading. The Islamists should know better than attacking the mere concept of the festival and maybe they should concentrate on or criticize its individual components for the purpose of improving them. It is true that Israel is importing Jews from the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Those include not only soldiers but also scientists, artists, musicians and entertainers. In fact the Jewish state boasts the highest per capita of theatre-goers in the world, and that is not standing in its way of being a regional power.

Jordan, which tries through events like the Jerash Festival to advance Arab culture and arts and to encourage investment and tourism, is at the same time keeping a trained army beyond its own means. The country's leadership is striving all the time to keep the army fully prepared and fully equipped. In doing so, Jordan needs a strong economy. Such a strong economy will not be hampered by entertainment. On the contrary, hard working, productive people need breaks, entertainment and cultural doses to keep them running. The Brotherhood's call can only be seen as counterproductive for both the country and its people. Now that we are on the road to democracy, people's choice must not be determined by one group. One hopes that other blocs in Parliament, other parties, and people with different opinions should make them known.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine has entered a critical stage now with the declared plans in Israel of absorbing one million Jews over the coming 18 months, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper referred to statements by Israeli leaders about plans which include the construction of 7,000 housing units every month in order to absorb the immigrants who are bound to bring about a basic demographic change in the occupied Arab lands. It is true that Moscow has lately displayed concern over these plans, and admitted that Israel's policies constitute a flagrant aggression which is bound to obstruct the peace process, said the paper. But it added, concern over the situation and the Palestinian human rights are not enough, and can by no means solve the problem. Since Moscow had succumbed to political pressure from Washington to release its Jews, then it is only fair to ask Moscow to halt the migration of Jews until and when Israel accepts the idea of a comprehensive peace to ensure the rights of the Palestinian people, the paper demanded. Concern over the grave situation in our region, added the paper, can not end the ordeal of the Palestinians; and therefore, a political step is needed immediately before it is too late for peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily draws the Ministry of Supply's attention to the need to put an end to street vendors' exploitation of citizens. Nazih says that Jordan's streets and highways are now abounded with numerous vendors selling fruits and vegetables at soaring prices, not controlled by the Ministry of Supply and destabilising the market prices. The writer notes that these vendors do not pay any taxes nor do they hold valid licences for selling their products; and they also sell by crate not by kilo, claiming that what they offer is the best on the market. The victims are of course the ordinary citizens and those travelling on the roads and in need of the vegetables and fruits for their families, says the writer. Since the Ministry of Supply is controlling prices of various crops in shops and green groceries inside the stores, it is just and fair to demand that it does so with the vendors on the side of the road, the writer continues. He says that the vendors are exploiting pavements and plots of land owned by private individuals and the state in order to make profit which is far in excess of that made by green groceries who pay their taxes, and abide by municipal and government regulations.

Weekly Political Pulse

One positive way to influence the West

MUCH deliberation has been devoted to the oil weapon as a tool to bring the enemies of the Arab causes to their knees. Other economic and financial factors have also been discussed as potential weapons that can be used against the West in particular. In addition to being double-edged weapons, all such economic and financial options are negative in essence. Given the fact that oil is abundant on the international market, its use as a weapon stands to hurt the oil countries more than the recipients. At least for the time being, it is a buyer's market as far as oil is concerned. The same appears to apply to other economic and

financial powers at the disposal of the Arab countries. Instead of exploiting Arab wealth and natural resources in a negative manner, it would seem more appropriate to look for positive ways for their deployment in furtherance of Arab causes and interests. What comes to mind is putting Arab economic and financial capabilities to assure the Arab World a voice in Western journalism and other mass media in the West, through Arab investment and acquisition of effective voice in their operation. As Arab interests and their side of the story, especially in

the Arab-Israeli context is getting less and less attention and fair hearing in the Western press, it would seem proper to make a daring effort to correct this situation by direct Arab investment. Surely the Arab World knows only too well that there is no way to make the West turn around in favour of fair play in the Middle East without changing Western press in the direction of fairness and justice towards the Middle East. No one is suggesting that the Arabs obtain enough controlling interest in Western press with a view to making it one-sided in favour of the Arab side. All that is suggested here is to have a fair

press and a fair coverage of news in the Middle East. It is a well known fact that as long as Israel and the Jewish lobbyists all over the Western world continue to monopolize the press, there is no way to effect a genuine transformation in Western public opinion and in turn realise a more balanced official stance on the various dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab World has seen time and time again how official American positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian dimension, knuckle under everytime there is a daring effort in the direction of fairness. The U.S.

Congress is so much under the influence and duress of the Jewish lobby in Washington that it would be wiser to write it off as a potential catalyst for peace in the Middle East. This unfortunate state of American affairs is due to the ability of journalism and the mass media in the West in general and the U.S. in particular to manipulate Western public opinion in favour of Israel. The minute the Arab World succeeds in breaking this cycle of control and manipulation through direct Arab investment in Western mass media, the higher becomes the chances to realise genuine transformation in Western capitals' stands on the

Palestine case as well as on the other aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. As things stand now, even the Palestinian intifada barely makes it even as a footnote in Western mass media. Every one concedes this is manipulated by Jewish lobbyist in order to drive a wedge between the Western public and the Arab causes, especially the Palestinian struggle for liberty and self-determination. To sum up, Arab wealth should be put to positive uses, above all in extricating a voice in the operation of mass media in the Western world.



Menem the star

By Ed McCullough
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — President Carlos Menem has made the country his stage. If Argentina were a play, he would be producer, director and star. In the first year of his presidency, by personality as much as policy, Menem staged off hyperinflation, social tension and the military unrest that forced his predecessor to leave office 22 weeks early, on July 8, 1989.

Menem, the son of Syrian immigrants, was a provincial governor with a taste for showgirls and fast cars; he seemed an unlikely saviour. However, the 60-year-old lawyer and career politician is adept and charming, manipulating and improvising. He is blunt in one situation, ingenious in another. His greatest assets, observers say, are pragmatism and intuition.

He charted a course of fiscal austerity and political tolerance to jolt this South American nation from economic stagnation and political confrontation. In the process, he may transform Argentina.

"I have never voted Peronist, but if I had to vote today, I'd vote for him," said Carlos Escada, an economist, author and university lecturer. "He is fascinating in his strengths and weaknesses."

This nation of 33 million people slid from affluence to near ruin in four decades.

When Menem took over, monthly inflation was 197 per cent, more than some countries see in a generation. In a fertile land that ships grain and beef to the world, Argentines were eating in soup kitchens and looting grocery stores.

His Peronist Party's history of economic nationalism and administrative incompetence was described as a cause of Argentina's ills.

But the new president quickly separated himself from traditional Peronism. On his first day in office, Menem devalued the currency by 54 per cent and raised gasoline prices sixfold. Argentines were appalled.

He has acted with similar resolve since then, sometimes seeking consensus but often going against public opinion and the counsel of his advisers.

In October, he pardoned military officers involved in the "dirty war" against leftists of 1976-83, removing a grievance that led to three uprisings against former President Raul Alfonsin.

Diplomatic relations with Britain resumed this year after Menem agreed to suspend his country's claim to the Falkland Islands, over which the two nations fought a 74-day war in 1982 that was disastrous for Argentina.

"He is a man with a great virtue: He has no preconceived ideas," said Maria Julia Alsogaray, a Menem appointee from a Conservative Party that is anathema to traditional Peronists.

Some of the greatest changes have been economic. Savings accounts worth \$2 bil-

lion, about half the money in circulation, were converted to 10-year government bonds in January to stop speculation against the austral, Argentina's currency. The austral has been stable for several months.

Companies nationalised or created by dictator Juan Peron, who founded Menem's party in the 1940s, were put up for sale.

U.S. and Spanish investors bought the telephone company last month and the state airline, Aerolineas Argentinas, will change hands later this year.

Menem halted subsidies to private companies, reduced the budget deficit, lifted controls on exchange rates and prices, lowered tariffs, partially deregulated the oil industry and encouraged agricultural production.

New private investment in energy and transportation alone are projected to surpass \$6 billion before Menem's term ends in 1995.

Many of Menem's actions have been taken at great social cost, for which organised labour, leftist political parties and human rights groups revile him. Old-style Peronists call him a traitor.

At least 40 per cent of Argentina's 12.7 million workers are unemployed or underemployed, according to labour department figures. Opposition economists say inflation shrank to about 13 per cent for June only because the recession is so deep.

Real wages for government employees have declined drastically. Policemen, paid the equivalent of \$100 a month, usually have at least one other job and the crime rate is soaring. Teachers have boycotted classes off and on during most of this school year.

The middle class is declining in numbers and living standard. The low quality of care at some public hospitals is scandalous. Many more beggars and homeless people are on the streets, living in doorways and abandoned buildings.

Menem is blamed for these things and more. Alfonsin's Civic Radical Union, the second-largest party in Argentina, claims he "stacked" the supreme court by increasing it from five judges to nine and filling the new seats with Peronists.

Newspaper editorials say his trip to Italy for the first match in Argentina's defense of the World Cup was frivolous, that his driving of speedboats and rally cars is reckless.

His separation this year from his wife of 24 years, Zulema Yoma, was treated as a soap opera. Menem didn't help by barring her from the presidential residence; she complained loudly outside the gate.

Whatever his problems, Menem's approval in the polls has never dipped below 47 per cent, the share of the vote he won in the May 1989 election. Sometimes it has exceeded 80 per cent, and nobody wonders who is in charge.

Levy doesn't want to be seen as an 'ostrich'

By Jack Redden
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel's new Foreign Minister, David Levy, may not know English, but he would have to hear his head in the sand not to hear the word from Washington these days.

Taxed by an Israeli newspaper interviewer who said the United States was treating his government with "public contempt and insults," Levy bridled.

"I am certainly aware of this," he said, making no attempt to gloss over the perilous state of Israel's most important foreign relationship. "I am not an ostrich."

Levy has now been invited to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Paris this month, although he recently suffered a mild heart attack and is waiting for medical clearance before committing himself.

Baker topped all previous thrusts with a public suggestion last month that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should telephone when he gets serious about making peace with Israel's Arab neighbours.

Such hitting remarks seem to show that U.S.-Israeli differences go much deeper than one-issue arguments that ruffled relations in the past.

"People resort to letters and news conferences when more effective means of communication are not pursued," said Shai Feldman of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies. "We would be much better off to sit down and find new common ground."

Diplomacy between the two countries recently has centred on a letter from Shamir explaining his position.

Israeli officials said they hoped it would improve relations, but



the Americans made clear they found little positive in it.

"I'm worried the crisis is much more serious, with much more serious implications for the infrastructure of the relationship," Feldman told Reuters.

An atmosphere of distrust has emerged, underlined by an obvious lack of rapport between Shamir and U.S. President George Bush.

Shamir's new right-wing government has also alienated many of the American Jews who are a vital factor in ensuring U.S. support.

Feldman believes before the military alliance was strengthened in the 1980s, the countries had grown close because they felt they shared values such as commitments to democracy and human rights.

"In a sense there has been a change in the classical roles," Feldman said. "Many people in Washington are perceiving Israel as a strategic asset but there are increasing questions about the values held by Israel."

Behind the specific disagreements over terms for convening Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo that dominate recent diplomacy are much more fundamental doubts about Israeli intentions.

Thirty-one months of news about Israeli efforts to suppress the Palestinian revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip erased what remained in Americans' minds of Israel's valuable image as the underdog of the Middle East conflict.

Although the choice of a foreign minister with a linguistic disadvantage surprised many, the

policies Levy, a French speaker, espouses will be far more important than the language he uses to express them.

"To be successful as foreign minister, he has to make sure that the relationship with the United States and the American Jewish community does not deteriorate," Feldman said.

The record so far is not reassuring. Levy was one of the "constraints ministers" in the previous government who opposed even Shamir's slow steps towards peace talks with Palestinians.

"We are trying," Levy countered when asked a week ago by the Israeli newspaper interviewer about U.S. doubts over Israel's commitment to peace.

But he added: "We are not going to grovel before the United States and crawl to it."

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Features

Apartheid disappears in smoke from a barbecue

By Philippa Fletcher
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — "No mama, I don't believe you," the servants giggled when Minah Nkosi told them she, also a black, was a guest in a white home.

Nkosi was strolling with her hostess, Jessie Jameson, when they met the off-duty maids chatting on a grassy verge in the prosperous whites-only Johannesburg suburb of Edenvale.

"Then apartheid is over" one exclaimed when Nkosi convinced them that not only were she and Jameson friends, but that the white woman had stayed in her own black township home.

After 40 years of race segregation, the South African government has at last sat down with the black African National Congress (ANC) to discuss ending apartheid.

But while President F.W. de Klerk has tea with ANC leader Nelson Mandela, ordinary South Africans rarely socialise across the racial divide.

The law restricting movement between black townships and white suburbs has been scrapped, but stubborn psychological barriers persist and blacks and whites rarely entertain one another at home.

Nkosi and Jameson belong to a Christian group called Koinonia trying to break down those barriers.

They and other Koinonia members recently met up at the home of a white couple, Reg and Maureen Jager, for a "braaisveld" or barbecue.

"Blacks from work used to help me out at home sometimes, but it was awkward when we sat

down to eat," said Reg Jager, whose wife belongs to Koinonia. "But this is different," he added, glancing at black faces tucking into meat and salad around his garden table.

The visitors came from Tembisa, a dusty township 10 kilometres from Jager's home. The black townships of South Africa are strange, unknown places for most whites. They are almost never visited and usually they are invisible from white cities. Whites know of them only through newspapers when there are outbreaks of anti-apartheid violence.

When Maureen went off to spend her first weekend in Tembisa with 60 other whites, her conservative husband refused to get involved. Her mother cried in fear for her safety and her nine-year-old son exclaimed: "gosh, mom, you've got courage."

But she returned home unscathed and struck by the warmth of the welcome she had received. She was also appalled by the conditions in which black people live in the areas allowed them under racial zoning laws. The tiny homes are overcrowded and commonly lack basic facilities such as electricity and bathrooms.

She invited her hosts, Peter and Genevieve Matsobane, back to Edenvale.

"I was a little bit dubious, about how my husband and my children would react," said Maureen. "But Reg handled the situation with great ease. I was surprised by how sim' ar they were with their philosophical approach to life."

A few years ago, Jager, a pharmaceutical salesman, and

Matsobane, a plumber, would have been enemies.

Jager served for more than two years as an army conscript while Matsobane served in then-outlawed Pan Africanist Congress, a radical black organisation pledged to overthrow white rule.

Jager blames military service, compulsory for all white males, for hardening his attitude towards blacks.

Matsobane is not bitter about the past, although he said he was arrested and tortured by police. "We must just forgive and forget. I think most blacks have done that," he said.

Jager was amazed to hear Matsobane say he now shares his admiration for reformist president De Klerk and would vote for him if he carries out his promise to give blacks the vote.

Matsobane and the other blacks seemed quite relaxed in the comparative luxury of Jager's house and garden. Their children played together happily by the swimming pool.

The blacks were struck by the quiet of Edenvale compared with Tembisa, where 16 people often cram into a four-roomed house and privacy is virtually unknown.

While conversation began awkwardly with talk of black and white social customs, the party was soon laughing over the past. "A few years ago if you had a gathering like this you would be called a communist," said Jessie Jameson.

"And we would have been called 'sell-outs,'" said Nkosi. In the warm afternoon sunshine, both possibilities seemed as hazy as the smoke rising from the barbecue.



With the discovery of oil, the modern world is slowly penetrating the old Kingdom of the Queen of Sheba. But craftsmen still ply their trade as they have for 2000 years.

Yemen did it first

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — Months before the two Germanys started talking about unification, two Arab states — former bitter enemies — were quietly taking steps to do just that, burying the hatchet and, in the case of South Yemen, discarding the hard-line Marxist ideology that made this country the only communist Arab nation.

Watching this process initiated many months ago and that culminated in the official creation of one Yemen in May, an acute observer might have recognised an early version of the changes that were to alter so dramatically the so-called East bloc since last winter. Now there might still be a lesson to be drawn from the meshing of North and South Yemen, despite all odds and in the face of deep social, political and economical differences.

When the Islamic, pro-Western, Arab republic of (North) Yemen and the Marxist, secular People's Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen officially announced the unification of their two countries on May 21, political analysts were surprised at the speed with which the deal was made, ahead of schedule, in fact. Both nations have always considered the border between them, drawn by the British and the Ottomans in 1904, as artificially imposed, yet in their long history the two have rarely been ruled as a single entity, and previous attempts at unifying failed. This time several new factors intervened.

"The urge for unity has always been there and there has always been a genuine sense of Yemeni identity and nationalism. The issue of unity was popular and both sides of the border," commented Gregory Gause, assistant director of the Middle East Institute at New York's Columbia University. "The difference this time, is that past attempts (in 1972 and 1976) came as the result of military confrontation and one side getting the upper hand," added Gause, and expert on Yemen who teaches political science.

General Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has ruled North Yemen for 12 years was named president of

the new Republic of Yemen, while his South Yemeni counterpart Ali Salem Al Beidi, secretary general of the Socialist Party, serves as vice-president. Sana'a, the former capital of the North is now the capital of the new state, while the southern capital of Aden — one of the busiest harbours in the world during the 1950s — is to be the country's commercial centre. The nation will have full control of the strategic straits of Bab Al Mandab which form the entrance from the Indian Ocean into the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

Gause and other experts agree that deep changes in the Soviet Union's foreign policy and its decreasing support for allies around the world, including South Yemen, were a key factor in the unification process. "If the Soviets really wanted to stay in South Yemen and wanted to do a lot there, we would not have seen this unity," said Gause.

Soviet presence, military and otherwise, in South Yemen had decreased steadily since 1986, when a civil war killed an estimated 10,000 people and caused an outpouring of refugees into the North. Under a friendship agreement the Soviets maintained up to 18,000 troops in the country and had built air, radar and naval stations. South Yemen also was home to a squadron of the Soviet Navy and air and missile units. In addition, East German advisers set up a feared secret police force. Repression and the ban of all religious activities — including the closure of hundreds of mosques — stifled dissent, but the regime sent an estimated 40,000 Yemenis to scores of concentration camps.

"The USSR has had a large naval and air facility. It is the anchor of the Soviet naval route in the Indian ocean, but with the changes in the USSR, in its priorities and military strategy, I am not sure it is still a major consideration," Gause said. Although the USSR is likely to want to retain some port rights in Aden, one of its major activities there — to supply the besieged communist regime of Colonel Mengistu in nearby Ethiopia — has already slowed to a trickle.

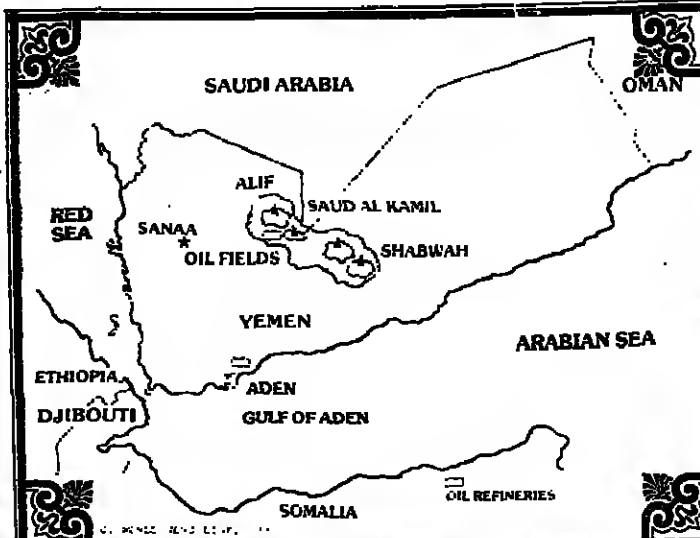
Meanwhile, most East German and Cuban military advisers have left, and about 2000 Soviet advisers remain.

Having celebrated with enthusiasm the merging of their countries, Yemenis now face the serious challenge of smoothing over fundamental differences between the secular South — a poor country of 2 million and the more prosperous North with its population of 9 million and its strong religious tradition. A progressive South Yemeni leader, Ali Nasser Mohammed who was ousted by a violent coup in 1986, had initiated a series of economic reforms to free-up a certain amount of private enterprise in agriculture and fishing, but his successor returned the country to the shackles of a centrally planned socialist economy with the state in almost total control of a moribund system.

Yet the South is to be the economic focus of the new Republic of Yemen with the port of Aden as its core. "There is talk of restoring Aden as a free port," said Gause "but major refurbishment and capital improvements are needed."

"Aden could become like Hong Kong," noted John Mandaville, professor of Middle Eastern History at Portland State University and president of the American Institute of Yemeni Studies. Mandaville, who recent-

ly returned from Yemen, said Aden is drawing many potential investors. "There is a stampede of people coming down from the North to buy up shops and businesses. The three major companies that dominate the corporate world in the North are run and owned by people originally from the South. They will come back," he added.



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The recent discovery of oil reserves estimated at 2 billion barrels in the area of the former border between the two Yemenis bodes well for the future. According to World Bank figures, the average income for 1988 in North Yemen was \$650 a year; in the South it was \$430. Experts say it will take two years before a major unified economic policy is forged. "We will see a Yemen that conducts a fairly united policy in terms of the outside world, but economically and politically, I think we will see the continuation of two pretty different systems for a while," said Gause.

Because of its somewhat isolated position, Yemen is unlikely to benefit from the same kind of large-scale investments from abroad promised to Eastern European nations. "but, we can hope that there will be more investment from Yemenis abroad who have kept their earnings out of the formal economy," Gause noted. Though it is impossible to estimate the earnings of the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis who work mostly in the neighbouring oil-rich Arab states, Gause added that if the country appears stable, this could turn into a promising source of funds.

Drawing up a new political system is already under way; both sides have merged their armed forces and have agreed to operate under a constitution jointly drafted in an earlier attempt at unification. In the North, President Saleh had allowed some political opposition, but he had faced

mounting pressure from Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the secular ways of the South and from fractious tribal leaders still ruling in remote areas. How much political representation, if any, the fundamentalists, tribal leaders and other opposition forces in both the North and South will get depends on how the general elections, scheduled for 1992, are held. "It will be a much more open political atmosphere than it has ever been in the past... It has been agreed that there will be more political pluralism," Gause said.

Yemen will probably emerge as a new force in the region, if only because of the size of its population. "A united Yemen is more populous than Saudi Arabia and if it can develop its resources, even if it cannot be as wealthy, it can present itself as an alternative pole of power in the (Arab) peninsula," Gause said. Having recently completed a book on relations between Saudi Arabia and the two Yemens, Gause believes that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be less wary of a united Yemen now that Soviet influence has receded in the South.

In any case, Yemen has a lot of problems to tackle before it can flex some political muscle. Gause said. Priorities include building roads, modernising means of communications, and educating a population that shows a high ratio of illiteracy.

Although North Yemen clearly led the way in the unification process, southerners are clearly eager for a change. "There has been a total collapse of faith in the system since the 1986 coup," Mandaville said. "people are sick to death of the economic situation." But he warned, "it is going to be chaotic for a while, there is not enough skilled middle management."

Commented an Arab diplomat in Aden: "The most important thing is that people (here) no longer live in fear."

Arab officials have generally welcomed the unification. A senior Egyptian diplomat at the United Nations noted: "It was well overdue. It is a new symbol of the growing trend among Arabs to get together." He added that this would not alter the make-up of the Arab Cooperation Council set up in February 1989 between North Yemen, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

"Unlike any other country of the region, Yemen is a natural nation state, it is historically and culturally homogenous," concluded Mandaville. "Despite numerous practical difficulties, the re-unifying of the Yemeni family after centuries can only be seen as a positive step opening the way for a new era of prosperity and harmony." — World News Link

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Rebels reject ceasefire, halt advance on Liberian capital

ABIDJAN (R) — Liberian rebels denied Sunday they had agreed to a ceasefire, as claimed by President Samuel Doe, and said they had halted their advance on Monrovia to avoid civilian casualties.

"Doe is in there with a lot of civilians and is holding them hostage... what we are doing is taking precautions to make sure we can bring this madman under control without unnecessary killing of civilians," Tom Woewiyu, spokesman of the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), told Reuters by telephone.

"Every entrance and every exit to the city has been closed by us," he said, adding that rebel forces were within three kilometres of Doe's heavily fortified beachfront mansion.

Woewiyu declined to say where he was speaking from but said he was on his way to the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown, where he would lead the rebel delegation in peace talks due to resume Tuesday.

The NPFL did not send delegates to last Friday's scheduled opening session of the talks, sponsored by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Woewiyu said the rebel movement was annoyed by ECOWAS attempts to impose preconditions on a peace settlement.

These included blocking NPFL leader Charles Taylor from the leadership of an interim government and sending and ECOWAS multinational peacekeeping force to Liberia to prevent reprisal killings, Woewiyu said.

Woewiyu said there would be no reprisals against Doe's Krahn tribe and the Mandingo trading community in the event of a rebel takeover, which diplomats in West Africa regard as imminent.

Diplomats have expressed fears that a rebel takeover might lead to revenge killings against the Krahn, who form the backbone of the government army, and the Mandingoes, closely associated with Doe's regime.

"There is no effort now to make the Krahn people or the Mandingoes a subject of retribution... we have to be very concerned about this because the world is watching us to see what happens," he said.

Woewiyu said the NPFL had restrained its forces from entering the Krahn tribal homeland in Grand Gedeh country near the Ivory Coast border to avoid tribal killings, and had punished some of its fighters for disobeying the "no-go" order.

He said he reckoned Doe had fewer than 500 soldiers left with him in central Monrovia and they were trying to stop civilians leaving the area.

"This is a bad man holding hostages," he said.

Woewiyu said most of the rebel troops were in the Paynesville area, 10 to 12 kilometres southeast of the capital on the road to the wrecked international airport at Robertsfield.

He said the rebels had not been responsible for cutting water and electricity supplies to Monrovia, a city of 500,000 people, which

has been without power and running water for more than a week.

Civilian employees who maintained the water pumping station had fled because of the fighting and there was no fuel left to run the electricity generators, he said.

A Reuters photographer who returned from a rebel-held area Saturday confirmed that fuel was in short supply with many vehicles abandoned because there was no petrol.

The photographer was allowed to proceed as far as Robertsfield Airport, 50 kilometres from Monrovia, where he saw the burnt-out terminal building and dozens of uniforms shed by fleeing government soldiers.

The rebels would not allow him to enter the city proper.

"We want two parties," many protesters shouted, waving two fingers in the local multiparty salute.

The demonstrators, many carrying rocks, broke into groups numbering in the hundreds and faced off with security forces who tried to block roads around the field.

When protesters stoned a plainclothes police officer and his car and commandeered a bus, security forces charged the crowd, firing bullets and tear gas.

Panicked groups fled into downtown Nairobi. Workers poured out of their offices and formed large crowds at bus stops as hundreds tried to flee the city.

Most traffic other than buses was quickly gone from the streets.

The atmosphere remained tense for hours.

Kenya has been at peace since independence from Britain in 1963 and often is cited as an example of stability and prosperity on a continent known more for guerrilla warfare, military juntas and corrupt dictatorships.

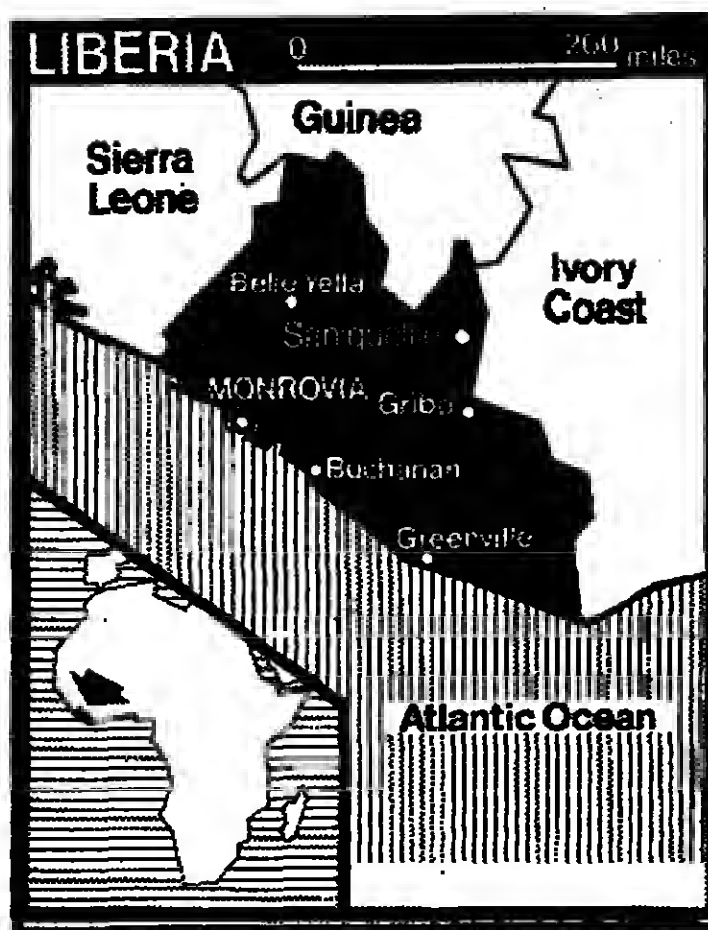
Since January, however, a loose coalition emboldened by the changes in Eastern Europe has repeatedly accused the ruling Kenya African National Union Party of intolerance, corruption and election-rigging.

Demands for change began on Jan. 1 in an address by the Rev. Timothy Njoroge, a longtime critic of the government, who urged Africans to reflect on the experience of Eastern Europe and choose multiparty democracy.

The government has rejected any move toward allowing other parties and calls its opponents subversives. Arap Moi says multiparty politics would create ethnic strife among the East African nation's 40 tribes and lead to tribal warfare.

Arap Moi said he will hunt down political pluralists "like rats."

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Kenyan forces attack supporters of multiparty democracy

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Months of political agitation in Kenya have erupted into violence, with police firing bullets and tear gas to disperse a crowd of demonstrators who held a rally demanding multiparty democracy.

Riot police moved through the streets Saturday, firing into the air and dispersing crowds so that only small groups of demonstrators remained by nightfall, clashing sporadically with troops.

Police pursued demonstrators into Nairobi's commercial centre. It was not known if there were any casualties, although witnesses said they saw security forces beat people.

The violence broke out after about 500 protesters defied a government ban and gathered at a field near downtown Nairobi for the rally. Kenya has been a one-party state by law since 1982.

Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia, leading opponents of the government who were detained last week, had called for the rally.

Authorities had denied permission for a demonstration, and President Daniel Arap Moi had threatened to use force to break it up.

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Sri Lanka seeks world mediation to end war

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said Sunday that peace talks with Tamil separatist guerrillas fighting government troops were possible only with international mediation.

He told a meeting outside Colombo: "It is only with the involvement of the international community in a manner acceptable to us that the dialogue can recommence."

On June 25, Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the government was willing to accept mediation to end the fighting provided the rebels surrendered their arms.

Premadasa spoke as troops surrounded a large guerrilla jungle base in the east in a campaign to wipe out the last rebel resistance in Amparai district.

"This is their final base in Amparai district. We have them trapped there," a military source said by telephone from Amparai, 240 kilometres east of Colombo.

He said fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group retreated to their jungle base at Kanchikudichchi Aru, 55 kilometres southeast of Amparai town, after suffering heavy losses in the army advance.

Other officials in Colombo said the Tigers were advancing to meet the army column which was about five kilometres from the base. "A big battle is looming," one official said.

The Tigers are the most powerful group fighting for a separate state in the north and east for the 2.5 million minority Tamil community. The majority of Sri Lanka's 16.5 million people are Sinhalese.

Officials said more than 5,000 soldiers were involved in the eight-day-old operation and at least a thousand rebels were believed entrenched in a maze of

camps and well-fortified bunkers. Officials said other areas in Amparai had been cleared of rebels after the army's Eastern Command, reinforced by battalions from southern Sri Lanka, began a push to regain Tiger-held areas more than four weeks ago.

More than 800 rebels, members of the security forces and civilians have been killed since June 11 when rebels unleashed attacks on police and military camps, taking the authorities by surprise because the government had been negotiating with the Tigers since May 1989.

In the past week, two army columns have been fighting their way through rebel bases in jungles and ricefields south and east of the northwestern coastal town of Mannar, where army camps have been bombed by the rebels.

Military sources said the rebels were holding the northern peninsula, their stronghold, and the main town there, Jaffna.

The sources said a major offensive to capture rebel territory in the north was likely to be launched in the next two weeks.

Visitors to Jaffna have reported large-scale damage to buildings in pre-offensive air strikes.

Premadasa told officials a Tamil-dominated council in the northeast region was dissolved Saturday to pave the way for fresh elections — a Tiger request during peace talks.

The council became virtually defunct after its leaders, opposed to the Tigers, left the country last March with its Indian military backers.

The Defence Ministry said Sunday that troops killed 21 rebels in an overnight raid on a Tiger stronghold at Kattappanich in eastern Trincomalee district.

Medvedev gets 'red card'

MOSCOW (R) — An angry delegate to the Soviet Communist Party congress censured ideology chief Vadim Medvedev World Cup-style. "Here's my evaluation of you," said the delegate, holding up his red congress credentials in the style of a football referee sending off a player with a red card. Medvedev has been savaged at the congress for failing to lay down a clear ideological line as the authority of the party continues to wane in the country.

Concert held on former Berlin Wall death strip.

EAST BERLIN (R) — About 10,000 classical music lovers attended the first open-air concert on former go-man's land along the Berlin Wall where border troops once shot at people trying to flee to the West. American conductor Lorin Maazel directed 120 musicians and 280 singers from 13 East and West Berlin orchestras and choral groups in a televised performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 Saturday night. The benefit concert was held on open ground along the wall between Potsdamer Platz and the Brandenburg Gate. The British rock group Pink Floyd is scheduled to play there on a mammoth stage on July 21.

New York police continue search for 'dirt man'.

NEW YORK (R) — Police have sent undercover female officers out to the streets of New York to lure out "dirt man" — a serial molester who roams New York City blowing tiny dirt through a straw into the buttocks of women, at least 52 of them so far. The attacks, most of them in the busy midtown area of Manhattan, started last month and led Police Commissioner Lee Brown to issue an appeal to the public to call police with information after the latest victim was struck Friday. "We need the eyes of the public," Brown said. But the police, the media and average New Yorkers seem undecided about whether "dirt man" is a budding psychopath or a mischievous prankster. "So far none of the two-inch-long pins — with little paper tails attached for better gliding capability and aim — has resulted in any injury. Some of the tiny weapons, recovered from hems and other parts of victims' clothing, have been analysed and show no trace of poison or other harmful substance."

U.S. institute kills 3 monkeys.

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government's National Institutes of Health (NIH) has killed three of the celebrated Silver Spring monkeys that had become a potent symbol of the Animal Rights Movement, a NIH spokeswoman said. NIH spokeswoman Anne Thomas said the three Simians — Big Boy, Augustus and Domitri — were euthanised Friday in a laboratory in Louisiana. Before their mercy killing by NIH scientists, the top of the monkeys' skulls were removed and their brains repeatedly pierced with electrodes in a final experiment NIH said could yield data useful in treating human victims of strokes and accidents. Animal rights groups had sought to prevent their deaths in court but first a federal district court and then a U.S. appeals court turned them down. The three monkeys were members of the Silver Spring Six, a band of Simians that were research subjects in a laboratory in Silver Spring, Maryland supported by the NIH. They were released from there in 1981 after complaints they were being treated cruelly.

S. African police arrest white extremists

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police said Sunday they had arrested a number of white extremists after a series of bomb attacks and threats to scuttle apartheid reforms designed to end white minority rule.

A police spokesman declined to say how many people had been detained. He said disclosure of further details would hamper investigations.

A Johannesburg Sunday newspaper named three men known in right-wing circles as among those under arrest. It said two of them were wanted in neighbouring Namibia in connection with last year's attack on a United Nations office in which a security guard was killed.

The third was described as a friend of Barend Strydom, sentenced to death for shooting dead eight blacks in central Pretoria in 1988.

White pro-apartheid extremists have claimed responsibility for a string of attacks on government offices, homes of liberal politicians, a synagogue, the office of a liberal Afrikaans newspaper which disclosed that white extremists were planning to assassinate black leader Nelson Mandela. South African President F.W. de Klerk and other politicians.

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TV shows internationally sought terrorist with Hungarian agents

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — State television Saturday showed film footage of intelligence agents trying to coax notorious international terrorist Carlos into leaving Hungary.

The meeting took place in 1980, the year Carlos left the country, at an Interior Ministry office and was filmed without Carlos's knowledge, state television said.

There was no indication of how the film was obtained. Three weeks ago, accusations surfaced that former Communist leaders permitted Carlos to use Hungary as a base for his terrorist attacks.

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, alias Carlos, was a Moscow University graduate who began his life as a terrorist in London in 1973. He headed Interpol's most wanted list by 1975, when he allegedly organised an attack in Vienna on OPEC oil ministers in which three people were killed.

Known as "Jackal," he remains at large.

Carlos spoke fluent but accented English in the film. The

two Hungarian agents spoke Hungarian among themselves and English to Carlos. The conversation was poorly recorded and difficult to make out at times, and the film was subtitled.

At one point, one of the agents told Carlos: "(You) must liquidate your base of operations here, must stop using Hungary from where to direct your group because there is danger. Your operations may be compromised."

"Also, if you were to continue, the interests of the Hungarian People's Republic may be jeopardised if you are associated with us."

"You can travel through Hungary or even stay for brief periods," the Hungarian official told Carlos, apparently trying to mollify him.

Andras Petreszevics, one of the agents depicted, said in an interview on the same programme that the terrorist at one point threatened him, charging him with being an "imperialist agent" acting without the knowledge of

his superiors in trying to get him to leave.

The former chief of counterintelligence under the Communists, Miklos Redei, was also interviewed in the programme. He had also met Carlos personally.

"He gave the impression of being paranoid, afraid, but he was not dumb by any means," Redei said.

Interior Minister Balazs Horvath said on June 27 he had instructed the chief prosecutor to investigate former Communist Party officials for allegedly providing shelter and training grounds for Carlos and his terrorist group.

Horvath said last month that recently discovered documents implicated top officials in giving Carlos safe haven. The nation's Communist Party disbanded in October.

Redei asserted that a small group of terrorists led by Carlos "did not come here at the invitation of any Hungarian official."

"We tried to keep tabs on them after their arrival."

Bomb kills 2, injures 35 in Punjab

NEW DELHI (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded in a vegetable market in northern Punjab state Sunday, killing two people and injuring 35 others, news reports said.

Sikh separatists agitating for an independent nation were believed responsible, the reports said.

In other violence, the militants killed at least 11 people Saturday and Sunday in the state, United News of India said.

The news agency said the bomb exploded in a shop in the town of Fatehgarh Churian, 35 kilometres north of Amritsar.

The Sikh holy city of Amritsar is the focal point of the separatist movement, 390 kilometres northwest of New Delhi.

At least 1,300 people have been killed in Punjab this year in hit-and-run attacks blamed on the militants.

Militant Sikhs have been demanding an independent state since 1982, accusing India's Hindu majority of political and cultural discrimination toward their community.

Sikhs form only 2 per cent of India's 880 million people but are in a majority in Punjab, a prosperous farming state bordering Pakistan.

Hindus make up 82 per cent of the country's population.

Sikh militants Saturday shot and killed a Sikh leader who opposed their demand for an independent Sikh nation in the Punjab state, news reports said.

employment, fight illiteracy, and rehabilitate juvenile delinquents," Florez said. "We don't need aid to escalate the war, but rather to fight one of its main causes, poverty."

He said half of Medellin's three million residents live in conditions of misery.

The city has become a virtual war zone this year. Teenage assassins on the payroll of the Medellin cocaine cartel have been killing policemen almost daily, and authorities blame drug traffickers for five explosions that killed at least 60 innocent bystanders.

The Colombian government has sent thousands more security troops to Medellin. Armoured personnel carriers, soldiers toting machine guns and military roadblocks dot the major roads and highways.

But Florez said drug lords take advantage of poor people to carry out their work.

"The government and ruling class failed to give these people hope, so drug traffickers came in and offered them jobs, but in a death factory," Florez said.

NATO summit highlights love-hate relationship with nuclear weapons

LONDON (R) — NATO leaders have agreed the cold war is over and that a new age is dawning — but their latest summit also highlighted the alliance's curious love-hate relationship with nuclear weapons.

The thought of weapons of mass destruction, never used since the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan to end World War II, sends a shiver down the spine for many people.

But at NATO they are treated with reverence as the ultimate guarantee of peace. They have also caused more rows within the 16-nation Western alliance than any other single issue.

Nuclear planners debate what they like to call "theology" for hours on end — using impersonal, arcane terms like "throw-weights" and "kill ratios."

"Sitting in on those meetings is a bit like being in a scene from Dr. Strangelove," said one NATO diplomat, referring to the 1961 film that satirised the superpowers' nuclear confrontation.

"But it's a very serious business underneath all that. Everything is built on an elaborate set of theories and options because

we've never had to use them. But we might one day."

The NATO summit in London last week tinkered with the wording of those theories, to make them appear less threatening to Moscow. Spurred on by the outbreak of democracy which has swept Eastern Europe, the leaders agreed to scale down their reliance on nuclear arms and to seek a joint peace declaration with the Warsaw Pact.

They agreed to explicitly make nuclear arms "weapons of last resort". Alliance officials said NATO had only ever intended to use them when the conventional battle appeared lost — in other words, in the last resort to avoid defeat.

But the leaders also said they would need to retain modern nuclear weapons in their arsenal and that the alliance should maintain its doctrine of "first use", with which NATO reserves the right to use nuclear weapons first in any conflict.

Even that slight adjustment to the semantics of nuclear policy caused a few problems at an otherwise harmonious meeting.

British Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher